

Chapter 12

Project Review Process

This chapter describes the processes by which projects implementing this Plan are identified, developed, integrated, reviewed, and selected for funding. The intent of this planning element is to: 1) create an adaptive model for project development that assures actions will be taken to implement the Plan's goals and objectives, and 2) provide an inclusive, effective, and impactful approach to IRWM project planning and implementation in the CABY region.



12.1 Introduction — Investing in Source Water Areas of the Sierra Nevada

Throughout this formal update of the CABY IRWMP, CABY members submitted ready-to-proceed projects with an associated cost of more than \$50 million, and have identified many millions more in projects at varying degrees of readiness. While the total costs for these projects equals far more than what is available to the region through the Department of Water Resources' Implementation Grant programs, CABY members have emphasized throughout the project development process that the projects represented herein only reflect a fraction of the total investment needed for water and watershed management in the CABY region.

However, CABY stakeholders continually underline the need for greater State investment in source water areas such as CABY. CABY's planning area is entirely in the Sierra Nevada which provides benefits of a large magnitude to the state by:

- supplying a high-quality water supply;
- contributing significantly to the state's energy supply through hydropower;
- sustaining valuable and endemic habitat and species in a biodiversity hotspot;
- providing climate refugia amidst climate uncertainty; and
- offering spectacular recreational and scenic areas of state and national importance.

The Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) found that Sierra waters are valued at \$1.3 billion a year and are essential for the health and welfare of California.¹ Yet, there have been disproportionately few State funds dedicated to headwaters resources. Historically, the distribution of funding for projects to ensure a more reliable water supply has been linked to population and has not adequately supported the watershed protection, restoration, and infrastructural improvements to the less populated areas of the state that are the source areas of California's water supply.²

Under climate change projections, investment in source water areas has become even more pressing. California's water supply system has been built on snow pack dependence and, with potentially

¹ "People and Resources." *Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, Final Report to Congress (SNEP)*. Vol. I Assessment Summaries and Management Strategies. Davis: University of California, Center for Water and Wildland Resources, 1996. Pg. 29-30.

² Sierra Nevada Alliance. *Investing in California's Headwaters: The Sierra Nevada*. 2009. Pg. 5.

significant reductions in snow pack, investing in greater headwaters resiliency in the face of climate change is of essential importance. Further, reducing fuel loads in the CABY region and throughout IRWM regions in critical fire hazard areas in upper watersheds will have a mitigating effect against the dire impacts and astronomical costs associated with catastrophic fire events (see Chapter 11, Climate Change).

Even in an environment of limited funding resources, CABY's diverse stakeholders have collaborated to develop projects within all programmatic areas that embrace the principles of integrated regional water management. Projects address the region's most immediate threats to those that are far-reaching, from aging infrastructure, renewable energy, and water use efficiency, to legacy mining contamination, meadows restoration, and forest health improvements. In all, these projects effectively meet the State IRWM Plan Standards and are in close alignment with CABY's IRWMP objectives.

12.2 Programmatic Structure and Project Development

In 2009, the Planning Committee (PC) developed a program and initiative structure as an update to the original 2007 IRWM Plan. At that time, the new structure was developed as a tool to organize projects, to rank projects with a specific focus, and to identify gaps in project development. In 2011-2012, the PC established programmatic areas that function as a framework under which to address issues by developing broad goals and attendant objectives (see goals and issues in Table 12-1, Programmatic Area Goals and Primary and Secondary Issues). CABY's programmatic areas are aligned with the IRWM Plan expectations outlined by the California Water Code (CWC) which is further discussed in Chapter 9, Issues and Objectives. The programmatic structure has proven useful in guiding stakeholders in the development of projects that directly address regional issues of concern and meet regional goals and statewide priorities.

Table 12-1 Programmatic Area Goals and Primary and Secondary Issues		
Programmatic Area and Goals	Primary Issue	Secondary Issue (where relevant)
Water Supply <i>GOAL: Ensure adequate and reliable supply that can be adapted to climate change and can meet the needs of the region.</i>	Conservation	
	Infrastructure	Aging Infrastructure
		Interties
	Water Storage	
	Water Management Operations	Drought
		Recycled Water
Water Quality <i>GOAL: Ensure sufficient water quality to support healthy ecosystems and dependent organisms.</i>	Water Transfers	
	Groundwater	
	Contamination	Legacy Mining Toxins
		Urban Runoff and Abandoned Mine Land Runoff
	Sediment Management	
	Wastewater Management	
Environment and Habitat <i>GOAL: Preserve and restore watershed health.</i>	Headwaters Protection	
	Temperature	
	Fisheries	Fish Passage
	Aquatic Biota	
	Instream Flow	
	Meadows	
Climate Change <i>GOAL: Anticipate climate change needs and be prepared to respond adaptively to human and ecosystem needs.</i>	Fire and Fuels	
	Invasive Species	Aquatic Invasive Species
		Terrestrial Invasive Species
Human-Landscape Interaction <i>GOAL: Maintain and enhance functioning landscapes that provide sustainable services for humans.</i>		
	Habitat Alteration	
	Native American Uses	
	Flooding	
	Open Space	
	Disadvantaged Communities	
	Recreation	
	Hydropower	
	Agriculture	
	Sustainable Economy/Self Sufficient Communities	
	Governance	Political
		Legislative
		Regulatory

12.2.1 Programmatic Structure – Relationship to Measuring Project Outcomes

CABY's programmatic structure facilitates an efficient and efficacious approach toward ensuring that project implementation measurably meets the goals and objectives identified in the IRWMP. For each programmatic area, an explicit relationship exists between and among the goals, issues, objectives, and performance measures as illustrated in Chapter 9, Table 9-3. Hence, by aligning project development with the programmatic structure, CABY has created a streamlined and standardized approach to measuring objectives that allows for ease and consistency in successfully meeting and reporting project outcomes as further discussed in Chapter 13, Plan Performance and Monitoring.

12.2.2 Programmatic Structure – Overarching Project Elements

In addition to the five programmatic areas (Water Supply, Water Quality, Environment and Habitat, Climate Change, and Human-Landscape Interaction) comprising the highest level of CABY's programmatic structure, the PC identified "Overarching Project Elements" as broad priorities to be considered in the development of projects and included as integral project components in CABY projects whenever possible. These overarching priorities are as follows:

- Education and Outreach with DAC, Tribal, and Environmental Justice (EJ) considerations
- Financial Feasibility and Sustainability
- Data Analysis and Monitoring
- Regional Planning and Land Use

12.2.3 Programmatic Structure – Relationship between Resource Management Strategies and Project Development

As described in detail in Chapter 10, Resource Management Strategies (RMS), regionally applicable RMS are directly linked to the steps necessary for project implementation and, therefore, in meeting CABY's stated objectives. During this IRWM Plan update, CABY's project development process addressed RMS by thematically categorizing projects within each of the programmatic areas utilizing the State-developed RMS and two additional PC-approved RMS. While utilizing the programmatic structure to categorize the nearly 170 currently submitted projects, it became evident that most CABY projects addressed more than one RMS and that individual RMS were often addressed by several CABY projects. This realization, along with the other benefits of project integration (discussed in Table 12-3, How CABY Projects Contribute to the IRWM Plan Objectives, below), highlighted the imperative to integrate project concepts into multi-stakeholder, multi-benefit projects that effectively address multiple RMS alongside complex watershed management. While inherently more challenging, the diverse CABY membership embraced this integrative approach, acknowledging that greater water-management benefits would manifest for the region and the state.

12.3 Stakeholder Outreach for Project Identification

CABY comprises a large land area at the upper elevations of four watersheds, covering nearly 2.8 million acres and all or part of nine counties. Since its inception in 2006, CABY has encouraged participation from stakeholders as diverse and far-reaching as the land itself. CABY's membership comprises representation from all sectors engaging in water and watershed management across the region, including: small and large water agencies, municipal and county governments, State and federal natural resources managers, Tribes, and non-governmental environmental organizations (see Chapter 2, Table 2-1).

In 2011-2012, CABY assembled a project team to conduct the formal IRWMP update process. Initially, given the expansive geographic scope and the great number of stakeholders in the region, CABY approached stakeholders and project recruitment on a watershed scale. CABY consultants made initial presentations and convened individual meetings and subregional workshops to provide stakeholders with a primer for the IRWMP update and the project development process. Where possible, and in coordination with the PC and Coordinating Committee (CC), CABY partnered with existing organizations and coalitions (e.g., the Yuba Bear Watershed Council, the Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, and others) to assist in ensuring inclusive and equitable stakeholder outreach and project recruitment across the region (as further discussed in Chapter 2, Stakeholder Involvement). Additionally, CABY continues to utilize its issues-specific Work Groups, such as Western Placer Creeks, as viable venues for project recruitment and development.

12.3.1 Project Identification and Recruitment

CABY employed a three-pronged strategy to recruit projects by engaging stakeholders through: 1) individual meetings and interviews to develop projects consistent with both the members' internal priorities and the CABY IRWMP; 2) existing Work Groups to identify projects addressing priority or high-profile issues within the region; and 3) watershed-scale workshop sessions bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders to develop regionally focused, multi-objective, multi-stakeholder projects. This manifold approach to project recruitment proved successful in maintaining existing CABY members, garnering several new CABY members, and in recruiting a far greater number of projects than in the past. In all, 125 new projects were identified during this project recruitment process.

This comprehensive and inclusive project development process has required stewarding existing CABY projects while at the same time incorporating new projects that address the full range of issues, goals, and objectives identified in the region.

12.3.2 Existing Projects from the 2007 IRWMP and 2009 Update

CABY recognizes the importance of updating projects that appeared in the 2006/2007 IRWMP and in the 2009 Update. Project update processes ensure that proposals are modified and refined so that they elevate in the project-tiering process over time. Some projects have been funded in venues outside of the IRWM program, some have been withdrawn, and others have been combined with larger regional efforts. All current CABY projects from 2006-2012 are included in the Project Matrix 1 and 2 found in Appendix I.

12.3.3 Disadvantaged Communities/Tribal/Environmental Justice Project Development Considerations

From the outset of the Plan update, CABY prioritized stakeholder outreach to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Tribes, and Hispanic communities in the region. CABY developed an outreach plan prioritizing communities that are often underserved and/or disproportionately affected or impacted by land and water development projects. Through the Objectives Work Group with confirmation from the PC, CABY developed an objective directly pertaining to DACs. An objective in the Programmatic Area of Human-Landscape (HL) Interaction, HL-5 states that CABY will, "Work with DACs to develop high-scoring projects." To ensure this outcome, CABY consultants conducted initial outreach to rural and urban DACs across the region and have provided individualized attention and assistance to these communities throughout the project development process. Further acknowledging that small water districts in DACs have limited staff and resources for technical expertise and project development, the CABY PC has

initiated a Work Group composed of small and large water districts in the region whose aim is to provide project-related technical and funding opportunity assistance to DACs. The long-term effectiveness of the CABY IRWMP requires the broad and active participation of the stakeholders in the region. By considering the barriers faced by DACs, Tribes, and other underserved stakeholders, and by employing strategies to assist these communities in overcoming the barriers to participation (see Chapter 2, Stakeholder Involvement), CABY increases its capacity to effectively implement the IRWMP regionwide.

12.4 Project Application Process

During the 2009 update activities, the CABY membership spent considerable effort revising and refining the previous 2006-07 project application process as a result of lessons learned. In doing so, the Planning Committee developed the process to ensure that the most diverse spectrum of projects would be identified and developed systematically with substantive support by CABY consultants. In this IRWMP update, CABY maintained many aspects of the revised application process with some notable exceptions and adaptations to account for the significant number of Step 1 applications submitted in 2011-2012.

12.4.1 Step 1 Project Application Process

The Step 1 application process enables project sponsors to propose conceptual projects, partially developed projects, and ready-to-proceed projects for inclusion in the IRWMP. This process enables extensive collaboration among CABY members to identify project linkages and integration opportunities prior to expending significant effort on independent application development.

The Step 1 application requires project sponsors to provide basic project information, and is the first step in submitting projects to CABY, both for inclusion in the IRWMP and for submittal to funding sources (See Appendix D - Region Description Supplemental Data, for Step 1 Application Template). CABY members submitted Step 1 applications from October 2011 through January 2012. In all, more than 125 new projects were submitted and included a wide range of projects, from conceptual to ready-to-proceed. These projects have been consolidated with existing projects into CABY's Project Matrix found in Appendix D. The ability to develop multi-stakeholder, multi-objective projects is considered of high importance to the CABY membership. For this reason, it is essential to understand that the list of projects provided with this version of the IRWMP is undergoing progressive refinement. The projects are specifically expected to change in response to the expanded understanding of the watershed and its issues as a result of ongoing collaboration and discussion, as well as in response to data gathered through scientific findings and evaluation of the Plan and project performance measures.

12.4.2 Project Tiering

The CABY tiering system was revised during the 2009 Plan update, establishing a process whereby the PC could identify ready-to-proceed projects for implementation and those that needed further development. In this formal IRWMP update, CABY has maintained the revised tiering system developed in 2009 with discreet changes. The most substantive change to the tiering system constitutes the inclusion of project conflict identification (see section 12.8, Project Conflicts, below). Projects in all three tiers are part of the IRWMP and are all going through progressive project development with assistance from CABY consultants and other stakeholders. (For complete tiering documentation, see Appendix I).

Upon receiving more than 125 new projects by early 2012, CABY consultants completed an initial project review and categorization. The categorized projects were then presented to the PC in spring 2012. At

that time, the PC reviewed the tiering structure developed in 2009 and recommended the following revised Tiering structure:

Tier 1 – Ready to Proceed

- ☐ CEQA/NEPA complete (unless DAC)
- ☐ Consistency with CABY IRWMP goals and objectives evaluation complete
- ☐ Measurable outcomes identified
- ☐ Preliminary project work plan and schedule complete
- ☐ Preliminary budget complete
- ☐ Partners confirmed
- ☐ Scientific/Technical analysis underway
- ☐ Site Plan/Map available
- ☐ DAC determination complete
- ☐ Minimum 25% non-State funds match available (unless DAC Infrastructure project)
- ☐ Preliminary Integration complete
 - ☐ Check here if project has not been integrated but represents a standalone project that achieves multiple benefits of regional significance, therefore representing a 'Bang for the Buck' project
- ☐ Project proponent has adopted the CABY IRWMP
- ☐ The project proponent has land tenure or written permission to implement project on named parcel
- ☐ Necessary permits identified
- ☐ Conceptual design complete
- ☐ Eligibility Confirmed. The project sponsor is determined as one of the following (Please check appropriate box below):
 - ☐ 501(c)3 non-governmental agency
 - ☐ Governmental Agency
 - ☐ Tribal Entity
 - ☐ Special District
- ☐ Self-Identify possible conflict(s) associated with your project/your project sponsorship
 - ☐ No known conflict
 - ☐ Project type
 - ☐ Project location
 - ☐ Land ownership
 - ☐ Organizational capacity in question
 - ☐ Project partner conflict
 - ☐ Other:
- ☐ Identify possible conflict(s) associated with another project/ project sponsor
 - ☐ Project location
 - ☐ Land ownership
 - ☐ Organizational capacity in question
 - ☐ Project partner conflict
 - ☐ Other:
- ☐ Based on this tiering criteria, indicate the tier in which your project should be placed
 - ☐ Tier 1
 - ☐ Tier 2 (See below)
 - ☐ Tier 3 (See below)

- ☐ If your project does not fulfill 100% of the Tier 1 list and you believe it should be a Tier 1 project, provide a BRIEF rationale for this position

Tier 2 – Not Yet Ready to Proceed

- ☐ CEQA/NEPA not yet completed
- ☐ Measurable outcomes identified
- ☐ Project work plan and schedule incomplete or lacking detail
- ☐ Budget incomplete or lacking detail
- ☐ Project partners not confirmed
- ☐ Ability of project to deliver identified outcomes unknown or unproven
- ☐ DAC determination not yet done
- ☐ Match less than 25% non-State funds

Tier 3 – Conceptual Project

- ☐ Project work plan and schedule not yet prepared
- ☐ Partners not identified
- ☐ No measurable outcomes yet identified

For a complete project list comprising Tiers 1-3, see the following at end of the chapter: Table 12-2, CABY Tier Project List, and Table 12-3. Appendix D - Region Description Supplemental Data, includes project descriptions and a discussion of the factors that inform CABY's project review process for Tier 1 projects only. The project descriptions in Appendix D and Appendix I, A–L Review Factors, are organized by programmatic area and are consistent with the numbering system utilized in Table 12-2 below.

12.5 Project Integration

As expressed in the IRWM Plan Standards of the November 2012 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines for Propositions 84 and 1E, regional watershed management groups – in CABY's case, the PC – are encouraged to incorporate the Ahwahnee Water Principles into their IRWMPs. Additionally, the guidelines state that, "an IRWM Plan must contain structures and processes that provide opportunities to develop and foster integration." The Ahwahnee Water Principles identify five Implementation Principles that have formed the basis for CABY's approach and commitment to project integration throughout the planning process. They include:

1. Water supply agencies should be consulted early in the land use decision-making process regarding technology, demographics, and growth projects.
2. City and county officials, the watershed council, local agency formation commissions, special districts, and other stakeholders sharing watersheds should collaborate to take advantage of the benefits and synergies of water resource planning at a watershed level.
3. The best, multi-benefit, and integrated strategies and projects should be identified and implemented before less integrated proposals, unless urgency demands otherwise.
4. From start to finish, projects and programs should involve the public, build relationships, and increase the sharing of and access to information. The participatory process should focus on ensuring that all residents have access to clean, reliable, and affordable water for drinking and recreation.
5. Plans, programs, projects, and policies should be monitored and evaluated to determine if the expected results are achieved and to improve future practices.

The first principle is further discussed in Chapter 8, Water and Land Use. The emphases on community engagement and information sharing stated in principles four and five have been identified as overarching priorities within CABY's RMS, and Programmatic Structure (see sections 12.2.1 and 12.2.2) which require that all CABY projects include education and outreach, as well as monitoring and data analysis and measuring and reporting outcomes to ensure improved future practices. The remaining principles (numbers two and three) encapsulate the core tenets of CABY's project development strategy that embraces multi-agency collaboration; stakeholder involvement; and integrated, regional approaches to water management.

12.5.1 CABY's Integration Strategy – Creating Linkages and Developing Strategic Partnerships

As each project is developed, CABY consultants and the PC consistently identify opportunities to create linkages where project synergies exist and to facilitate appropriate collaboration and formation of partnerships. To that end, CABY consultants convene stakeholder venues to facilitate the development of strategic partnerships in pursuit of multi-benefit, multi-objective, multi-agency, watershed-scale, and/or regional projects.

Another critical aspect that defines CABY's approach to strategic partnerships entails the building of relationships between and among stakeholder entities with varying degrees of organizational capacity. This strategy enables DACs, as well as small, rural water districts to participate in the project development process and to advance their ready-to-proceed projects through key partnerships. If integration were not foundational to CABY's approach, smaller agencies and groups with limited capacity would be outcompeted by the larger, better-resourced stakeholder groups. By instituting this integrative approach to project development, CABY enhances its ability to accomplish its IRWM planning goals and objectives throughout the region, addressing the issues facing all stakeholders.

12.5.2 Measures of Project Integration

CABY applies five measures for seeking integration throughout the project development and prioritization process:

1. projects meet multiple CABY priorities (goals, issues, objectives) and provide multiple benefits;
2. project integration within and across like projects employing key resource management strategies;
3. geographic integration (within a hydrologic system and across watersheds);
4. partnership integration (multiple partners for each project, collaborative in design and implementation, federal/State/local, and government/NGO/private sectors are all represented); and
5. integration of outcomes or performance measures.

EAST TO WEST/ NORTH TO SOUTH INTEGRATION

There are two additional elements of synergy or integration within the CABY region: integration along the east/west axis and integration along the north/south axis for projects with exportability to other regions.

Crest to Valley/East to West: CABY projects begin at the 4,500-foot elevation and end at the 400-foot elevation. This approach to project identification, assuring that all elevations in the region are

represented, is a form of integration unique to the Sierra, and CABY is intentionally sought to achieve this vertical integration.

Plumas to Mariposa/North to South: Mindful of its location within the Western Sierra Region, CABY has purposefully set out to provide projects that are exportable to other Sierra IWRM regions. Priority projects will develop methodologies, models, databases, or innovative project technologies that are readily exportable to the larger region thereby establishing a reservoir of new approaches to water management that can be utilized by adjacent IRWMPs.

12.6 Climate Change and GHG Emissions Review Considerations

The CABY project sponsors, in response to the efforts of the Climate Change Work Group and development of Chapter 11, Climate Change, included mitigating the impacts of their projects on climate change, designing projects to respond to climate change effects and the minimization of Green House Gases (GHGs) as key project development concepts. Each project application considered both climate change impacts and GHG emissions. In turn, the Project Review Factors A–L, which include both climate change and GHG considerations (as shown in Appendix I - Project Review Factors) were described for each Tier 1 project. Thus, both the application and the subsequent integration effort among project sponsors included consideration of climate change and GHG.

CABY project sponsors are well aware of the need to reduce the emissions associated with their projects, both existing facilities and activities and future construction and operation. Chapter 11, Climate Change, contains three sections that are specifically focused on responses to climate change and reducing GHGs. The sections were used during the project development activities to inform sponsors of options and opportunities: 11.9.1 Mitigation Strategies, 11.9.2 Further Opportunities for GHG Reduction, and 11.10 CABY Climate Change Program: Implementation of Adaptive Management Strategies. As part of the ongoing evolution of the CABY project solicitation and review process, it is expected that the review factors will continue to be updated in response to evolving conditions.

12.7 Project Selection for Funding – A Revised Approach to Ranking

During the 2009 IRWMP update activities, the PC decided that rather than ranking projects from 1 to 100, for example, a more useful method of ranking (based on lessons learned from the original ranking process in 2007) would be to rank projects within each programmatic initiative (in this formal IRWMP update the initiative areas are referred to as primary issues). This strategy resulted in like projects being evaluated within the appropriate initiative category. This approach allows the greatest flexibility in matching selected projects to a funding program's priorities and preferences.

In 2011-2012, the project development process was so highly integrated that most Tier 1, ready-to-proceed projects were integrated into multi-stakeholder, multi-objective projects. Therefore, in many programmatic areas, only one highly integrated project remained, causing ranking to become somewhat meaningless. For example, in Programmatic Area 3: Habitat and Environment within the primary issue 3.4 Meadows, several individual Tier 1 projects were integrated into one regional meadows project on several meadow sites throughout the CABY region. While developing the meadows integrated proposal, the diverse group of project partners collaborated to integrate the project utilizing the Measures of Project Integration defined in section 12.5.2 above. By aligning their goals, objectives, and RMS, and by integrating their outcomes and performance measures, the project sponsors created an efficient, streamlined meadows project elevated well beyond its separate, individual project applications.

Therefore, the PC determined in the fall of 2012 that ranking highly integrated projects had become somewhat irrelevant and another, more strategic approach would need to be employed to select projects for funding. Another factor affecting this decision is CABY's ongoing interest in diversifying its funding of projects beyond DWR's Implementation Grant programs. By maintaining a list of unranked Tier 1, ready-to-proceed priority projects, CABY is able to maximize its responsiveness to the specific priorities of different and varied funding programs. In other words, project selection would occur when a funding opportunity arose, and upon careful review of the Requests for Proposals or Proposal Solicitation Packages.

12.7.1 Establishing Guiding Principles for Project Selection

In the absence of project ranking, the PC acknowledged the importance of establishing a framework for project selection. In December 2012, the Coordinating Committee created a draft of guiding principles for project selection and forwarded them to the PC where they were confirmed in January 2013. The PC then applied them for the first time to project selection for the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant package. The guiding principles are as follows.

Guiding Principles for Project Selection

- Projects must be relevant to the CABY IRWM Plan.
- Projects reflect a balance between natural resources, water supply efficiency, and infrastructure to illustrate a truly integrated approach to regional water and watershed management.
- Where appropriate, multi-project packages should include a fire and fuels project component given its relationship to CABY's approach to climate change and the demonstrated high fire risk to the region.
- Preference will be given to projects demonstrating 'Bang for the Buck' in relation to impact, integration, and number of objectives met.
- On balance, consideration should be given to projects reflecting direct benefits to disadvantaged communities and groups.
- All projects must be able to stand alone on their own merits and not be included in a package to be inclusive of all stakeholder groups.
- Projects selected for a package must have a story, reflecting an integrated narrative.

Application Qualifications

- Project sponsors must have the capacity to generate the required materials within a prescribed timeline and meet all deadlines, and must have adopted the CABY IRWMP prior to application.
- Project sponsors must have the expertise for the proposed projects, and must have the staff and capacity to accomplish the work plan if funded.
- Projects selected should be ideally matched to the funding source.

12.8 Project Conflicts

CABY revised its tiering system to include the identification of project conflicts when it became evident that some CABY members had concerns about certain projects submitted through the Step 1 application process. Such conflicts had not occurred in previous CABY planning processes where far fewer projects had been submitted by a smaller number of CABY member groups. While the numbers of project

conflicts were relatively few, the CABY membership determined at the PC meeting on April 4, 2012, that a formal system for enumerating these conflicts and resolving them was warranted.

12.8.1 Identification and Nature of Project Conflicts

The formal process for identifying project conflicts was established by utilizing the tiering system (see section 12.4.2). The tiering documentation requires all project sponsors to self-identify if they believe that one or more of their projects may have any conflict associated with:

- land ownership;
- organizational capacity;
- competing strategies for addressing particular issues;
- project type that may represent a broader regional conflict (e.g., new dam construction or dam removal); or
- other (to be specified).

In addition to self-identification, the tiering documents ask project sponsors to list any other CABY project(s) that may cause any concern or constitute a conflict using the same categories as stated above. CABY consultants reviewed the tiering documentation and created a table illustrating the ‘conflict’ projects and explained the nature of the conflict(s). Those projects were then presented to the PC for discussion and clarification before engaging in a conflict resolution process.

12.8.2 Development of a Conflict Resolution Process

CABY established a conflict resolution process to resolve these project conflicts in an equitable and consistent manner. Once conflicts had been formally identified in spring 2012, the Coordinating Committee met to develop recommended language for a conflict resolution process. This language was forwarded to the PC for discussion in September 2012 and the PC subsequently empowered CABY consultants to apply the process to the projects in question. All project conflicts were resolved by engaging in the first step of the process, or by voluntarily withdrawal of a project. However, the conflict resolution process remains in draft form as CABY formalizes conflict of interest and recusal policies as well as addresses governance implications related to conflict resolution. The conflict resolution process in its current draft form is as follows:

If a project conflict occurs:

- CABY recommends that the participants meet independently first and attempt to discuss and, if possible, resolve conflict(s).
- If resolution cannot be found or if the participants decide it is in everyone’s best interest, they make a formal, written request to include their conflict on a Coordinating Committee (CC) meeting agenda.
- Once included on an agenda, the CC will invite the participants to a meeting to clarify their respective concerns. The CC will ask clarifying questions and document the nature of the conflict in meeting minutes. If relevant, the CC will make recommendations for next steps or resolution for Planning Committee consideration.
- The conflict will then be placed on the following PC meeting agenda to make a decision based on the documented issues and CC recommendations.

Decision-making Considerations:

- The Coordinating Committee and Planning Committee will follow CABY's governance structure as outlined in Chapter 4, Governance, of the IRWMP. When making a decision about project conflicts, the PC will attempt to reach consensus, but, if necessary, will apply the super-majority if consensus cannot be reached.

Table 12-2 CABY Tier 1 Project List			
Tier 1 Projects: Ready to Proceed			
Programmatic Area 1: Water Supply			
Project Number	Project Name	Watershed	Project Sponsors/Key Partners
1	City of Placerville Water Quality and Habitat Protection: Hangtown Creek Sewerline Replacement and Water and Sewerline Replacement-Pardi/Big Cut/Sacramento Street	American	City of Placerville El Dorado County Water Agency
2	Water Supply Reliability for DACs: Locksley Intertie and Mt. Vernon Intertie	American, Bear, Yuba	Nevada Irrigation District Placer County Water Agency
3	Water Efficiency and Water Quality: Canal Lining; Gauging Stations/Water Efficiency Education	American, Bear, Yuba	Nevada Irrigation District Placer County Water Agency
4	Yuba River Regional Water System Infrastructure Improvement Project	Yuba	Camptonville Community Service District, Alleghany County Water District, Downieville PUD, Sierra City Fire District
Programmatic Area 2: Water Quality			
5	Barrett Lake Jeep Trail Restoration and Trail Reroute	American	Eldorado National Forest
6	WAG-Bag Campaign within the Caples Creek Recommended Wilderness on the Eldorado National Forest	American	Eldorado National Forest
7	Camp Sacramento Erosion Control and Habitat Improvement Project	American	El Dorado County Resource Conservation Districts
8	Combie Reservoir Sediment and Mercury Removal Project	Bear	Nevada Irrigation District
9	CABY Mercury and Sediment Abatement Initiative	Regionwide/ Yuba focus for remediation	The Sierra Fund, Tahoe National Forest, South Yuba River Citizens League, Yuba Watershed Institute, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Irrigation District

Table 12-2 CABY Tier 1 Project List			
Tier 1 Projects: Ready to Proceed			
Programmatic Area 3: Environment and Habitat			
Project Number	Project Name	Watershed	Project Sponsors/Key Partners
10	The Intersection of Traditional Ecological Practices and Habitat Restoration at Ladies Valley, Phase I - Monitoring, Assessment and Outreach	Cosumnes	American River Conservancy
11	Raintree Forest Health Project	Cosumnes	El Dorado County Resource Conservation Districts
12	Organizational Support for the Biomass Working Group	American	Sierra Forest Legacy
13	Evaluating the Response of California Spotted Owl to Habitat Modification from Fuel Treatments and other Stand Altering Practices	American	Sierra Forest Legacy
14	Meadow Enhancement and Restoration in the Yuba, Bear, and American River Watersheds	American, Bear, Yuba	South Yuba River Citizens League, Tahoe National Forest (Yuba River and American River Ranger Districts), American Rivers, American River Conservancy
15	Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Water Quality Monitoring in the North Yuba River Watershed	Yuba	Sierra County Land Trust
16	Deer Creek Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Restoration Project	Yuba	Sierra Streams Institute
17	Woodpecker Preserve: Forest and Watershed Erosion Control, Fire Suppression, and Forest Restoration	Yuba	Bear Yuba Land Trust
18	Sugar Loaf Mountain Fuels Reduction Project	Yuba	Sierra Streams Institute
19	Deer Creek and Tribute Trail Forest Health Initiative	Yuba	Sierra Streams Institute
20	Monitoring & Public Demonstration Centered On Invasive Species Removal and Fuels Reduction In The Grizzly Creek, Spring Creek, and Shady Creek Watersheds In The Inimim Forest	Yuba	Yuba Watershed Institute
21	Yuba Forest Stewardship	Yuba	South Yuba River Citizens League

Table 12-2 CABY Tier 1 Project List			
Tier 1 Projects: Ready to Proceed			
Project Number	Project Name	Watershed	Project Sponsors/Key Partners
22	Removal of Scotch broom in Nevada and Placer Counties by community group sponsors to reduce the wildfire hazard and invasive weed spread throughout watersheds	Regionwide	Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
23	Native Conservation Corps	Regionwide	Sierra Native Alliance
24	Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention in the CABY Region	Regionwide	South Yuba River Citizens League
Programmatic Area 4: Climate Change			
25	CABY Regional Renewable Energy with Micro and Small Hydro Project	Regionwide	Nevada Irrigation District, Placer County Water Agency, El Dorado County Water Agency, El Dorado Irrigation District
Programmatic Area 5: Human-Landscape Interaction			
26	Peabody Creek: Flood Management, Creek Restoration and Green Infrastructure in a Disadvantaged Community	Bear	American Rivers and City of Grass Valley
27	Livestock and Lands Program	Regionwide	El Dorado County RCDs
28	Fish Friendly Farming Program	Regionwide	El Dorado County RCDs

Table 12-3
How CABY Projects Contribute to the IRWM Plan Objectives

	CABY Objectives																																														
CABY Tier 1 Projects	WS-1	WS-2	WS-3	WS-4	WS-5	WS-6	WS-7	WS-8	WS-9	WQ-1	WQ-2	WQ-3	WQ-4	WQ-5	WQ-6	WQ-7	WQ-8	WQ-9	EH-1	EH-2	EH-3	EH-4	EH-5	EH-6	EH-7	CC-1	CC-2	HL-1	HL-2	HL-3	HL-4	HL-5	HL-6	HL-7	HL-8	HL-9	HL-10	HL-11	HL-12	HL-13	HL-14	OV-1	OV-2	OV-3	Number of objectives		
1	X	X			X									X	X																														5		
2	X	X	X																														X													4	
3	X	X											X																													X	X			5	
4	X	X											X																				X														4
5												X	X		X	X		X		X														X							X	X			9		
6												X			X																			X								X	X			5	
7												X	X		X	X		X		X			X		X								X													9	
8				X							X				X			X									X															X	X			7	
9				X						X	X	X	X		X			X								X				X												X	X			11	
10																X		X		X		X				X				X												X	X			8	
11												X	X		X	X						X		X	X									X								X	X	X		10	
12															X								X			X	X															X	X			6	
13																X							X																					X			3
14															X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X			X					X							X	X			13		
15															X	X								X																		X	X			5	
16																		X	X	X	X																						X			5	
17																X							X		X	X																	X			5	
18																X							X		X	X			X					X								X	X			7	
19																X							X		X	X			X					X								X	X			7	

Table 12-3
How CABY Projects Contribute to the IRWM Plan Objectives, *continued*

	CABY Objectives																																												
CABY Tier 1 Projects	WS-1	WS-2	WS-3	WS-4	WS-5	WS-6	WS-7	WS-8	WS-9	WQ-1	WQ-2	WQ-3	WQ-4	WQ-5	WQ-6	WQ-7	WQ-8	WQ-9	EH-1	EH-2	EH-3	EH-4	EH-5	EH-6	EH-7	CC-1	CC-2	HL-1	HL-2	HL-3	HL-4	HL-5	HL-6	HL-7	HL-8	HL-9	HL-10	HL-11	HL-12	HL-13	HL-14	OV-1	OV-2	OV-3	Number of objectives addressed
20																							X		X																X	X		4	
21																X							X		X	X							X								X	X		7	
22																X							X		X	X															X	X		6	
23																	X					X	X		X				X												X	X		7	
24															X	X								X			X														X	X		5	
25																										X	X								X										3
26		X										X				X					X				X	X				X	X			X							X	X	X	1	
27												X				X			X										X							X	X				X	X	X	1	
28												X			X			X		X								X							X	X				X	X	X	1		
Total times objectives addressed	4	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	8	6	1	13	15	0	9	1	8	2	3	12	2	12	12	2	2	7	1	0	2	9	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	19	23	4	